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and form to the half of an old-fashioned copper cent, and the feathers were colored nearly to the roots. In other respects the bird was precisely similar to the ordinary male of this species.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

THE BELTED KINGFISHER.—I observe a note concerning the nesting of the Belted Kingfisher in your November number, in which Mr. Fowler differs from Mr. Samuels. I now propose to be a connecting link between the two, and to say that I have *always* found the holes of *C. alcyon* "six or eight feet long," as Mr. S. says, and *always* "in the form of an elbow," as Mr. F. describes them; and that I have sometimes found a bed of sticks, grass, etc., and sometimes not. I wish, too, to ask if any one has ever known them to turn to the left, as I have never seen them branch otherwise than to the right.—W. E. ENDICOTT.

THE DWARF THRUSH IN MASSACHUSETTS.—A single specimen of the Dwarf Thrush (*Turdus nanus* Aud.) was obtained in Waltham, Mass., on Oct. 9, 1867. It was taken by Mr. L. L. Thaxter, and its identity was first discovered by Mr. C. J. Maynard, of Newtonville, Mass. The bird was found in high, dry woodland, not in a swampy locality, such as the nearly-allied species frequent.*—E. A. SAMUELS.

GEOLOGY.

THE BONE CAVES OF BRAZIL AND THEIR ANIMAL REMAINS. By Prof. J. Reinhardt.—The distinguished author, well known to zoölogists by his numerous and valuable contributions to the history of mammals (especially Cetacea), Birds, Reptiles, Fishes, etc., has favored one of the popular scientific journals† of his country with a detailed and very interesting account of "The Bone Caves of Brazil and their Animal Remains,"—a subject on which Professor Reinhardt, through his repeated travels in that country and his familiarity with its recent and Post-pliocene fauna,‡ must be regarded as one of the first authorities. In the hope that one of the many popular scientific journals of England will procure its readers the pleasure of becoming acquainted with his memoir *in extenso*, through a translation, we shall here restrain ourselves to giving, in the author's own words, the general conclusions with which he sums up the most important results of his careful studies on the subject.

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*The following description of this bird corresponds essentially with that of Pacific specimens given by Professor Baird:—Upper mandible of bill, black; lower mandible, at the base and for half its length, yellow; at the tip, black, gradually fading into light brown towards the middle; the head above, and the back to the rump brownish-olive, becoming paler on the rump to the upper tail coverts, which are rufous; tail, both above and beneath, with a decided purple tinge, not rufous, as with T. Pallasii; chin, throat, and breast, pale buff, each feather having the tip marked with a large triangular spot of dark brown, which spots are less decided on the breast; sides grayish brown; belly and lower tail-coverts, pure white; on opening the wing, the broad buff band across the whole width within appears, as with T. Pallasii, but is a shade paler; iris brown; feet and tarsi paler brown; tail more rounded than T. Pallasii. Length, 6.70; breadth, 10.56; wing, 3.40; tail, 2.80 inch. The stomach was filled with small insects, principally beetles.

†Journal of Popular Science, Edited by C. Fogh and Dr. C. F. Luetken, Copenhagen, 1867.

‡Dr. P. W. Lund's collections from the Brazilian caves in the Museum of Copenhagen are intrusted to the care of Professor Reinhardt.

1. During the Postpliocene epoch Brazil was inhabited by a very rich mammalian fauna, of which the recent one might almost be said to be a mere fraction or a crippled remnant, as many of its genera, even families and suborders, have vanished, and very few been added in more recent times.

2. During the whole postpliocene epoch the Brazilian mammalian fauna had the same peculiar character which now distinguishes the South American fauna, compared with that of the old world; the extinct genera belonging to groups and families, that this very day are peculiarly characteristic of South America. Only two of its genera, the one extinct (mastodon), the other still living (the horse), belong to families that in our epoch are limited to the Eastern hemisphere.

3. All the mammalian orders were not in the same degree richer in genera in former times than now. The Bruta (Sloths, etc.), Pecora (Horse, Sheep, etc.), Proboscidea (Elephants), and lastly the Feræ have relatively suffered the greatest losses. Some orders, for instance the Chiroptera (Bats) and Simiæ (Monkies), perhaps contain even more genera now than formerly.

4. The Postpliocene mammalian fauna of South America differed much more from the modern one, and was especially more rich in peculiar, now extinct, genera, than the corresponding fauna of the old world.

5. The scantiness of great mammalia, one might say the dwarf-like stamp impressed upon the South American mammalian fauna of our day, compared with that of the Eastern hemisphere, was much less distinct, or rather failed altogether in the prehistorical fauna. The Postpliocene Mastodons and Toxodonts of Brazil, its many gigantic Armadillos and Sloths, could well rival the Elephant, Rhinoceros, and Hippopotamus, which, during the same period, roamed over the soil of Europe. — C. F. LÜTKEN, *Copenhagen*, *Feb.* 14, 1868.

ENTOMOLOGICAL CALENDAR.

IN June we have found that beautiful butterfly *Militæa Phaëton* rising from the low cold swamps. Its larva (Fig. 1) transforms early in June or the last week in May, into a beautiful chrysalis (Fig. 2). The larva hybernates through the winter, and may be found early in spring feeding on the leaves of the Aster, the Viburnum dentatum, and Hazel. It is black and deep orange-red, with long thick-set black spines.

The Currant-borer, *Trochilium tipuliforme*, a beautiful, slender, agile,